

Delayed Emergence of *Polycaon stoutii* Lec. from Furniture and Interior Woodwork

(Coleoptera: Bostrichidae)

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Polycaon stoutii LeConte is a large, black bostrichid beetle 10–24 mm long, breeding in numerous native, as well as introduced, hardwood trees in widely distributed localities in western United States. Due to its incorporation into furniture and interior woodwork with infested stock it may, at times, be found far beyond its normal habitat. It is fairly common in the San Francisco Bay area of California, and in addition has been reported by Fisher (1950) from Arizona, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Wyoming and an obviously introduced occurrence from Memphis, Tennessee.

Herbert (1920), Fisher (1950), Essig (1926) record it breeding, or emerging from California laurel, madrone, manzanita, eucalyptus, sycamore, redwood dresser, coast live oak, maple, fruit trees, prune, hickory, and a mahogany table. Herbert (*ibid.*) also reported it as attacking the branches of almond and eucalyptus.

The adult normally attacks only dead, dying or weakened trees, but on occasion has been reported attacking living apparently healthy ones.

According to Hatfield (1949), the eggs of bostrichid beetles are not laid in the surface pores of wood as with *Lyctus*, nor in surface cracks or crevices as in the case of anobiids. The adult bostrichid bores into the wood and the female lays eggs in egg tunnels in pores leading from the egg tunnel.

While never having been reported as a pest of trees, Essig (1926) reported it as injurious to cured hard woods in California. Presumably he is referring to lumber cut from infested timber with living larvae included.

This phenomenon of certain insect larvae continuing to live and complete their life cycles in various articles of wood is well documented for a number of other insects. Certain species of Cerambycidae, Buprestidae, and Siricidae are noted for their ability to continue development in finished lumber sometimes taking many years to do so (Linsley, 1943; Middlekauff, 1969).

There is no evidence that *P. stoutii* reinfests cut or green lumber or finished wooden products, so that delayed emergences from household

TABLE 1. *Polycaon stoutii* delayed emergence records.

Emergence Date	Locality	Infested Materials	Minimum Life Span of Specimens ¹
VIII-23-66	Santa Clara Co., California	floor	9 years
VII-30-70	Richmond, Contra Costa Co., California	kitchen table	22 years
VIII-3-70	Hollister, San Benito Co., California	cabinet "ash"	8 years

¹ Deduced from the known age of the article concerned.

furniture, hardwood floors, and other wooden structures reveal life spans which can exceed two decades or more (Table 1).

The Hollister record is interesting inasmuch as the Farm Advisor, who submitted the specimens, reported "the insects did a lot of damage, which was noted when the cabinet was repaired."

Another interesting, but confusing record is Fisher's (1950) report of an adult emerging from a "mahogany" table in Texas. There are no native mahogany trees in the United States. The table in question could have had a mahogany veneer over a hardwood base, or the mahogany log could have been infested in a San Francisco or other west coast lumber yard.

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